



# SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SHIOCTON

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## RETURN TO SCHOOL PLAN FOR THE 2024 - 2025 SCHOOL YEAR

Approved 9/9/2024

The last quarter of the 2021-2022 school year saw a stark decline in the number of COVID-19 positive cases among students and staff in the School District of Shiocton. This experience continued through the 2022 – 2023 and the 2023 – 2024 school years despite the existence of variants such as Omicrom, JN.1, and, most recently, KP.3.1.1.

### Shift towards endemic status

The status of COVID-19 remains that of an endemic. An endemic disease is considered to be a disease that is still around but that is occurring at a level that is not causing significant disruption in our daily lives.

Influenza is a commonly known virus considered to be an endemic. It is an illness for which there are vaccinations and treatment options. It is also one that can see a spike in positive cases at times, which can shift its status to that of an epidemic. When this happens, businesses and schools typically look to a longer weekend for closure and ramp up sanitation efforts for a period of time to ensure the virus is not living on surfaces nor in the air such that it could be contracted.

Given these factors, the School District of Shiocton will treat COVID-19 positive cases as it does all other endemic positive cases.

### General Operations:

- Ill children stay home from school until 24 hours fever free without the use of a fever -reducing agent.
  - Parents are responsible to monitor their child(ren) each morning: do not send ill children to school
  - Parents will be encouraged to have their child tested for COVID if symptoms displayed are common symptoms of the virus
  - Contact the school nurse (x714) if you have concerns or questions about your child's symptoms
- Provide District Administrator continued decision-making ability regarding the institution of additional mitigation strategies in the case of school transmissions

### Guidance and References:

- Continue to monitor District data regarding illness, positive cases, and related statistics
- Continue to monitor data and guidance provided by Outagamie County Public Health
- Continue to monitor research and guidance provided by the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS), and the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI)

**This Plan is fluid and will be revised as needed.**

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*"Where Excellence is Expected"*

*The Shiocton School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, age, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, or physical, mental, emotional or learning disability.*